



LANGUAGE/CULTURE BANK

Funded through a grant from The Corporation for National and Community Service

Contacts: Dave Baer and Carrie Wiggs, Tulsa Volunteer Center

918-585-5551, Extension 232 or 261

citizencorps@cityoftulsa.org www.citizencorpstulsa.org

The Language/Culture Bank (L/CB) allows people with foreign language skills or multicultural experience to make their skills available to assist community agencies with concerns of homeland security, disaster response, emergency preparedness, crisis management, public health and public safety.

For example, volunteers may register to offer the following skills in times of crisis:

1. Language assistance and translation
2. Culture of a particular ethnicity or country/region of the world
3. Culture of a specified faith, religion or belief system

Community organizations that might utilize Language/Culture Bank volunteers include first responders (fire, ambulance or law enforcement), the City-County Health Department, mental health facilities, hospitals, homeless shelters, etc. Language/Culture Bank volunteers could expect to participate in the following activities:

- Translate for speakers of other languages in a crisis situation.
- Help people from the culture of a particular country or region in the areas of public health, public safety or disaster response.
- Assist persons of various faiths (for example, if September 11th had occurred in Tulsa, Language/Culture Bank would immediately have mobilized volunteers with Muslim awareness skills).
- Serve as speakers on racial, ethnic, and cultural issues to build trust, sensitivity and understanding, celebrate diversity, and counter hate and fear of people who are not like ourselves.

The spirit of the nationwide Citizen Corps effort is to help our communities to be part of a nation that serves goals larger than self. By participating in the Language/Culture Bank, volunteers can help build bridges to all people in our community, so that when an incident occurs, as anxiety increases in our neighborhoods, we have the knowledge and skills to work together quickly and effectively to meet the needs of families in Greater Tulsa.



Community Service Council



Tulsa Volunteer Center



Tulsa Area United Way

Get A Plan — Get A Kit — Get Involved